

the Schoolmen was Karl Marx. ^

(11) *The Sin of Avarice*

If such ideas were to be more than generalities, they required to be translated into terms of the particular transactions by which trade is conducted and property acquired. Their practical expression was the body of economic casuistry in which the best-known elements are the teaching with regard to the just price and the prohibition of usury. These doctrines sprang "as" much consciousness of the plain facts of the economic situation, as from the theorists who expounded them* The innumerable fables of the usurer who was prematurely carried to hell, or whose money turned to withered leaves in his Strong box, or who (as

the scrupulous' recordgr^m^rks)^s^u-
about the year
1240," on entering a^hurclTto be married,
was crushed
by a stone figure falling from the porch,
which proved
by the grace of God to be a carving of
another usurer
and his money-bags Ja&ng, j^tmed^^ by
tfe' devil, are
more illuminating than the refinements of
lawyer s?^1^

On these matters, "as the practice of
borough and
manor, as well as of national governments,
shows, the
Church was preaching to the converted,
and to dismiss
its teaching on economic ethics as the pious
rhetoric of